

A Report from the Community Advisory Panel To the Doe Run Company July 25, 2002

Introduction

Since Dec. 18, 2001, the Community Advisory Panel has met monthly to consider health and environmental issues associated with the Doe Run Company's smelter in Herculaneum, and, as the company had requested in asking us to serve on this panel, to present recommendations on how the company might best respond to community concerns.

In the six months or so since we first met:

- We have talked with outside experts in lead mining and production, children's health and community health.
- We have attended meetings of the Community Action Group (CAG) and the Herculaneum First group.
- We attended the Doe Run meeting at which residents were informed of the details of the buyout program.
- We have tracked down rumors and more than a few town legends.
- We have looked at reports and studies on lead issues in Herculaneum as well as on several other lead-related sites in Missouri, Colorado and Montana.
- We have had the benefit of having the former and current Dunklin R-5 school superintendents as members of the panel to provide us with insights into lead issues and the schools.
- We have talked with Clif Gray, the smelter's general manager, who candidly answered our questions and responded to our concerns.
- And we have talked with numerous people across the community, representing perspectives ranging from "my company, right or wrong" to outright hostility to anything connected to Doe Run.

This report, which we call an interim effort, provides you with our thinking up to this point, as well as a number of recommendations we are making to you. We will be posting this report on the web site space allocated to us, and we will also be providing copies to interested residents and the news media.

What We Have Learned

First, this issue is not just about children's health and safety, or lead in general, or clean air standards, or soil replacements and buyouts. It is all of those things and others. But it is also about the history of our town, and relatively recent history at that.

Specifically, we are referring to the strike of some 10 years ago, the net result of which was the breaking of the union that represented workers at the smelter. More than the

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SUPERFUND RECORDS

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Site:	<u>Hercules</u>
ID#	<u>100006266373</u>
Break:	<u>2.0</u>
Other:	<u>7-25-02</u>

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union was broken, however; a significant bond between the workers/residents and the company was broken as well. There are people in the community today who see these environmental and health issues as "payback time."

Second, mistrust of the company is widespread. Doe Run's community survey of last fall showed that. Comments even by people inclined to favor your position show that. Neither this panel nor the Herculaneum First group see themselves as representing Doe Run, although there are a few people who believe that.

The single most significant thing Doe Run could do to begin to restore trust in the community is, at a minimum, reroute the haul trucks away from the center of town, and ideally, to replace them with rail services as soon as possible. All of us – friend, foe and neutral alike – hate the noise and nuisance of the haul trucks.

Third, even with the mistrust, most people see the company as extremely important to the well being of Herculaneum, the school district and the county. There are serious concerns about the company's financial position, over and above anything relating to lead exposure issues. While a few people think they would be glad to see the smelter shut down, most people recognize such a move to be devastating to Herculaneum and the school district.

Fourth, while we are glad to see that the company is reducing its air emissions, we need to be assured that progress will continue once the glare of the TV cameras has gone away. This panel believes you are making steps in the right direction; we believe you are sincere in your statements of making things right in the community. But many in the community don't believe you're doing either, and your actions will ultimately tell the tale.

Fifth, the facts tell us that there is no public health crisis in Herculaneum. There is cause for concern, however. Children with elevated blood levels, even the handful who actually are affected, are a cause for concern and action. Not enough is known about the effects of chronic exposure on the elderly. The slag pile needs to be fixed, temporarily and permanently, and we need some kind of assessment of the extent to which slag was used in years past for salting the streets in winter, as fill for yards, and as bedding for driveways and sidewalks.

Sixth, no one wants to talk about exposure to lead-based paint, which comes as close as anything to being "politically incorrect" throughout this issue. The two main sources of exposure to lead in St. Francois County came from dust from the piles of tailings (an approximation of an active smelter, interestingly enough) and lead-based paint used in older homes, and they were roughly equal in terms of percentage. Doe Run is certainly more of an attractive villain than lead-based paint, but we are doing our children a grave disservice if we focus only on the company reducing air emissions, replacing soil and eliminating the haul trucks, while we ignore the paint problem. We have to address both.

Seventh, our community has been torn apart by the lead issue. Our children have been stigmatized as "leaded" or "poisoned." Our community has been stigmatized as "contaminated." Neither is true. We all want to have a community education program, as long as the result is that everyone agrees with our own particular perspective. Levels of mutual mistrust are as high as any of us can remember. Nobody trusts Doe Run. Nobody trusts the EPA or the DNR. Nobody trusts the media. Some have tried to portray this Advisory Panel as Doe Run "flunkies." Some think the company is the power behind Herculaneum First, while others see the Community Action Group as a tool of plaintiffs' lawyers and the environmental groups.

It seems to us that, at times, the threads of community have been unraveling in Herculaneum. We believe the opportunity is there to stop the unraveling and begin to reweave a stronger community. And Doe Run has important role to play in that.

What We Are Recommending to Doe Run

- (1) Reroute or eliminate the haul trucks as soon as possible. Last fall, Doe Run announced a plan to largely replace the trucks with rail shipments by the end of the March. We understand that contract negotiations with various railroads have taken longer than expected. Until the negotiations are completed and a contract signed, we recommend that the company regularly report on progress to the community, or explain why such a contract may not happen. If a more likely alternative is to build a bridge across Joachim Creek, we will be glad to step forward and petition Congressman Gephardt and Governor Holden for help in doing that, as both of them have said they stand ready to try to do whatever the community might need.
- (2) Provide a progress report on the "green belt" proposal made last fall, and address how the buy-out of various residences will affect this plan. We understand that there is a wide difference of opinion between the city, the DNR and the EPA over what to do with the houses that Doe Run buys. Residents might have some suggestions and opinions about this as well, but no one knows there is a disagreement at this point.
- (3) Report regularly to the community on compliance with the Clean Air Act, perhaps even on a monthly basis.
- (4) Involve the community directly in the resolution of the issues concerning the slag pile. We believe that it would be beneficial to have Herculaneum residents directly involved in the discussions between Doe Run, EPA and DNR. While this is obviously not a Doe Run decision alone, we urge the company to support such a move with the regulatory agencies.
- (5) Help the community assess all of the various ways slag was used in the past.
- (6) Keep the community informed to the fullest extent possible about operational and financial issues faced by the company. We believe Herculaneum has a direct stake in the company's success. Consider including uncensored perspectives by residents in your Neighbor Notes newsletter and annual community report.
- (7) Sponsor an educational outreach to the community, perhaps through the county health department, fire department or police department. We need to know what

can be done to reduce all forms of exposure to lead – from the smelter, the haul trucks, soil and the paint on the walls of houses.

- (8) Consider ways you might involve the community in major operational decisions that are made for and by the smelter. We want the company to succeed both environmentally and financially.

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Herb Marler
Art McCoy
Bill Haggard
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Pat Parsons
Bill Whitmer

Glynn Young, facilitator